

Boat Festival is no exception. This cultural event celebrates Colorado's diverse Chinese and Taiwanese population. Thousands of competitors and spectators alike gather downtown for this annual race.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival has been recognized as one of Denver's largest and most prolific cultural events. In 2011, the CDBF earned the Denver Mayor's Diversity Award. In 2013, the event received the Denver Mayor's Award for Excellence in Arts and Culture. Additionally, Director Erin Yoshimura was the first Asian American to win the Boettcher Foundation's Livingston Fellowship.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and International Cybersecurity Cooperation, I am dedicated to strengthening relationships with our Asian communities at home and abroad.

Best of luck to the 52 teams competing in this year's race, and I look forward to many more years of celebrating the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival.●

TRIBUTE TO COL RHONDA D. SMILLIE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Col Rhonda Smillie of the U.S. Army Reserve who retired in May 2015 with more than 32 years of service and who, for the past 2 years, has served as a legislative liaison for the chief, Army Reserve. I am grateful for her life of service to the Army Reserve and wish her well as she transitions into retirement.

A native of Fort Atkinson, WI, Rhonda was commissioned via the Reserve Officer's Training Corps Program at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and went on to earn advanced degrees from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO, and from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

Currently serving as the legislative liaison for the chief, Army Reserve, with responsibility for 19 States, Colonel Smillie travels extensively throughout her territory. From Ohio to Washington, from North Dakota to Missouri, she conducts education and outreach events that ensure community leaders understand the impact of the Army Reserve. Her efforts highlight key aspects of the Army Reserve that otherwise go unnoticed such as providing medical and dental assistance to underserved communities in northern Montana, providing cost effective training via Chinook helicopter simulators in Kansas, and working to ensure returning soldiers receive necessary support via the Yellow Ribbon Program in various States. She has helped to highlight the Public Private Partnership and other programs unique to the Army Reserve.

Prior to assignment as a legislative liaison, she served as the deputy director, Military Personnel Management, Department of the Army Headquarters,

G-1. On points of law and policy she was trusted to consider the needs of the Army, the Army Reserve, and soldiers and families. She expertly assisted in developing personnel policies to keep pace with an Army engaged in persistent conflict while simultaneously drawing down the force.

With more than 20 years of Active Duty in support of the Army Reserve, Colonel Smillie's distinguished career is marked by tremendous accomplishments, impacting across the breadth and depth of the Army. Her distinctive leadership in positions demanding the utmost trust and responsibility, coupled with her exceptional professionalism and selfless service, will have a lasting positive impact on Army personnel readiness.

It is only fair and proper to acknowledge the tireless support of her husband, Mr. Douglas Bryan Way, and their son, Truman Douglas Smillie Way, as it enabled her to work tirelessly on her assigned duties. Let us thank them all for their sacrifices and wish them continued success in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5. An act to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6. An act to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2647. An act to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as additional conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735) to author-

ize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of the Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction within that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Messrs. NUNES, KING of New York, and SCHIFF.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 571 and 573 of the House bill and secs. 561-63 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROKITA, BISHOP of Michigan, and SCOTT of Virginia.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 314, 632, 634, 3111-13, 3119, 3133, and 3141 of the House bill and secs. 601, 632, 3118, and 3119 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. UPTON, BARTON, and PALLONE.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 1011, 1059, 1090, 1092, 1201, 1203-5, 1215, 1221, 1223, 1226, 1234-36, 1247-49, 1253, 1257, 1263, 1264, 1267, 1270, 1301, 1532, 1541, 1542, 1663, 1668-70, 2802, 3118, and 3119 of the House bill and secs. 1011, 1012, 1082, 1201-05, 1207, 1209, 1223, 1225, 1228, 1251, 1252, 1261, 1264, 1265, 1272, 1301, 1302, 1531-33, 1631, 1654, and 1655 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROYCE, MARINO, and ENGEL.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of secs. 589 and 1041 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. McCAUL, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 1040, 1052, 1085, 1216, 1641, and 2862, of the House bill and secs. 1032, 1034, 1090, and 1227 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GOODLATTE, ISSA, and CONYERS.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 312, 632, 634, 2841, 2842, 2851-53, and 2862 of the House bill and secs. 313, 601, and 632 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. COOK, HARDY, and GRIJALVA.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of secs. 602, 631, 634, 838, 854, 855, 866, 871, 1069, and 1101-05 of the House bill and secs. 592, 593, 631, 806, 830, 861, 1090, 1101, 1102, 1104, 1105, 1107-09, 1111, 1112, 1114, and 1115 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HURD of Texas, RUSSELL, and CUMMINGS.

From the Committee on Rules, for consideration of sec. 1032 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SESSIONS, BYRNE, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.